

The Present Value of Godliness

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TEXT—"Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." 1 Tim. 4:8.



There is something about this text which should give it peculiar interest to young people, because the apostle Paul is writing to this young man, Timothy, about athletic. He is advising him to avoid profane and silly fables, and "gymnize" himself in godliness. "Bodily exercise," he says, "profiteth a little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

I would especially emphasize the "promise of the life that now is," because that is what most young people are thinking about. They admit the value of godliness so far as the future is concerned, but that seems afar off. It is the present that concerns them, and if godliness can be of benefit to them now, they would like to know it. You pay a premium on a life insurance policy for many years in the hope of securing an annuity in old age; or you venture your capital in an investment with the expectation of an ultimate profit, but godliness is not like those things. It is more like a comfortable estate in the hands of a trustee yielding a regular support, or a bona fide business which maintains the proprietor from the moment he engages in it.

In other words, there is not a single want of our nature for which there is not a specific promise in the Bible ready to be made over to us if we comply with the simple and reasonable conditions. Is it food and raiment? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Is it counsel and direction in our daily affairs? "If any man may lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not." Is it support in old age and death? "My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

The Testimony of Experience.

But passing now from the testimony of the Bible reflect on that from observation and experience. Take the question of health, and the life insurance companies, just referred to, will tell you that they make special rates for those whose habits are supposed to be promoted by true godliness.

Take the question of fortune, and while it is not affirmed that the godly always become rich in this world's goods, yet they make better workmen, more judicious managers and clearer thinkers, all of which improves their financial status. "The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich and he addeth no sorrow with it." Grow rich with God, and there will be no bitterness with your gains. Grow rich without him, and your riches will never cease to be a curse.

Take the question of one's influence and standing among men. Does not the world respect and value a truly godly man? Would not the world rather deal with men who obey the laws of God than with those who disobey them? A truly godly man will not sell

All Are Yours.
"All things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's." 1 Cor. 3: 21-23.

The apostle here invites you to go into your treasury and look at your riches which God has given you in Jesus Christ. Out of Him you are nothing—have nothing; in Him you are rich indeed; for all things are yours, and that not in prospect only, but in possession. Cease, then, to weep over the loss of some earthly good, or, if you weep at all, let it be tears of wonder, love, and thankfulness, that upon you, so unworthy, He has bestowed so rich a portion. At this very time your God cares for you, and in His covenant of grace through Christ, He supplies all that you need; the pardon, peace, holiness, and happiness for which you long are all included in that covenant, purchased for you by Christ's own blood. He did not die to give His people half salvation, but a free, great, glorious, full salvation through which He makes them

The Hickory in Danger.

Entomologists declare the hickory to be in danger of extermination. There is, it seems, a bark beetle which is working widespread destruction. The bark beetle should be sought out and ruthlessly slain. The hickory is an aristocratic tree. It is gaunt, but sturdy. It looks like Uncle Sam. There is something essentially and typically American about the hickory. Its shaggy homeliness is a delight. The nut it bears is a delight, too. The tree is not like the "spreading chest-

nut," affluent in verdure and generous in shade. It is, rather, spare and utilitarian. And the hickory nut is far more admirable than the chestnut, and far more American. It is a hard nut to crack. But, after the shell has once been removed, it is found to be very desirable. Then, too, there is the hickory bark for building fires with. In the winter, when a cheery fire in the woods is most worth striving for, the cracking of the hickory bark is the cheeriest thing imaginable, and its fragrance is delightful.

his vote, nor defraud a neighbor, nor deceive a friend. He will give full measure and weight, and will tell the truth. These things make up his reputation and his character, and, as J. Pierpont Morgan testified before the congressional committee, they are his capital, and without a dollar in his pocket he can obtain credit where another, even with a well-lined purse, would not be trusted.

Then, further, one might speak of the profit of godliness upon the various tempers and habits of the mind. It steadies the variable, it cheers the despondent, it brings peace to the conscience, so that even if a godly man had nothing to expect hereafter, it would be better, all things considered, for him to practice godliness for its profit to him here.

What is Godliness?

But what is godliness? It is not merely making a profession of Christianity and uniting with the church, because there is such a thing as "the form of godliness without its power." The thought of this text is addressed to a young man who was already a Christian; who had already believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and had been regenerated by his Holy Spirit; and that to which he is urged is simply to conform his daily life more to the gospel he had thus embraced. To practice godliness, therefore, one must first be godly, and to be godly in the Bible meaning of that term, involves a clean heart and a right spirit which God bestows on them who accept him and confess his Son. "He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life" (1 Jno. v. 12). The first principle of godliness is obedience to God, and the first principle of that obedience is submission to the yoke of Christ.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

If fortune be taken in its highest and holiest sense, then the tide that carries thither is the Name Above Every Name, and "there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4: 12). "Now is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6: 2). "Hear and your soul shall live."

Learn a lesson from the times. In these days men are bent on the development of their outward man, but do thou, not neglecting or despising that, be equally bent on the development of thy inner man. "For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

What God's Love Does.

God's love connects His power with our need. Without His love, His omnipotence and His omniscience would be of little value to us. It is because His power is used in our behalf that we are blessed by it. And it is God's love that puts His power at our disposal. So of His infinite knowledge; it is His love that brings this also into our life. Do we realize that the love of God, in offering up His only Son Jesus Christ for our sakes, literally made God, with all His resources, the servant of men? A servant is one who ministers; and "the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Moreover, not only are God's power and knowledge infinite, but His love also is perfect. By an unending, unbreakable link all that God is and has is ours—if we are Christ's. His inexhaustible resources are deliberately used by Him for our best interests all the time. Why, then, if we have accepted God in Christ, as our Saviour, Master, and Life, should we ever fear or be anxious?

My wealth consists not in the largeness of my income, but in the fewness of my wants.—Joseph Brotherton.

All pain must be to work some good in the end.—Browning.

happy, and holy, both here and hereafter, and enables them to "glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

Your Own Business.
"Study to be quiet," that is, study to dismiss all bustle and worry out of your inward life. Study also to "do your own business," and do not try to do the business of other people. A great deal of "creature activity" is expended in trying to do other people's business. It is often very hard to "sit still" when we see our friends, according to our ideas, mismanaging matters, and making such dreadful blunders. But the divine order, as it is also the best human order as well, is for each one of us to do our own business, and to refrain from meddling with the business of any one else.—Every Day Religion.

The brave man is an inspiration to the weak, and compels them, as it were, to follow him.—Smiles.

In character, in manners, in style, in all things, the supreme excellency is simplicity.—Kavanaugh.

nut," affluent in verdure and generous in shade. It is, rather, spare and utilitarian. And the hickory nut is far more admirable than the chestnut, and far more American. It is a hard nut to crack. But, after the shell has once been removed, it is found to be very desirable. Then, too, there is the hickory bark for building fires with. In the winter, when a cheery fire in the woods is most worth striving for, the cracking of the hickory bark is the cheeriest thing imaginable, and its fragrance is delightful.

PLANTS OF FRAGRANCE

Those Used for Volatile Oils Largely Scattered.

Sassafras Bark Also Quite Popular as Domestic "Spring Medicine"—Sweet Birch Found in Many of Eastern States.

(By F. RABAK.)
Possibly the number of wild aromatic plants which are used in the manufacture of volatile oils exceeds that of those which are at present cultivated. The extent of the production of the oils is much less, chiefly because of the more or less scattered condition of these plants, and therefore the difficulty of gathering them in large quantities. Usually these wild aromatic plants are distributed over wide areas confused largely with other volatile or nonvolatile species, thus causing the rapid collection of the plants to be seriously hindered. A specific example of an important uncultivated plant which yields a volatile oil of considerable value is the sassafras tree. Sassafras oil was



Sassafras Leaves and Fruit.

one of the first volatile oils distilled in America. The range of the tree is from Florida, where it was originally discovered to Virginia and Pennsylvania, and even as far north as New York and the New England states. It is quite abundant in the south-central states, especially Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. The production of this oil attained commercial significance early in the last century, and it is distilled extensively at present in Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, also to a less extent in Ohio, Indiana and New York. Although the distillation of this very fragrant oil, which is obtained principally from the bark of the root of the tree, has assumed a strong commercial aspect, the tree has not been grown, strictly speaking, for oil purposes.

Sassafras bark is used for its tonic properties. It forms a popular domestic "spring medicine," and in the spring market women and men display their bundles of sassafras on their stands, or sell them along the streets of cities to be made into a tea, by many people regarded as a useful remedy.

The distillation of the oil of sweet birch is a further example of a wild aromatic plant furnishing oil in sufficient quantity to supply the trade. Sweet birch occurs largely from the New England states and north-central states to Georgia, Florida and Alabama. The distillation of this oil



Sweet Birch Leaves, Catkins and Fruit.

dates back nearly as far as that of the oil of sassafras and has developed until the industry at present is of considerable significance. The oil produced from sweet birch is almost identical, for all practical uses, with that of the oil of wintergreen, although the plants are entirely unrelated.

The bark of the trunk and the small branches of the sweet birch are used for distillation, being previously cut into small pieces and allowed to macerate with water before introduction into the still. A yield of three-tenths to three-fifths of one per cent. of oil is obtained. Owing to the strict enforcement of the pure food and drug act a more active demand for the natural oils of sweet birch and wintergreen has resulted, and the price of these products thereby materially advanced. Birch bark will bring from one to three cents per pound.

Brains Are Essential.

It takes just as much brains to run a farm or an orchard successfully as it does to run the average business.

Roots for Cows.

An acre of rutabagas will give plenty of roots for the cows next winter, and some good rooting for the hogs this fall.

CULTURE OF THE BLUEBERRY

Much Land in United States Suited for Nothing Else—Berries Stand Shipment Well.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)
Blueberries thrive in acid soils and there is a large amount of naturally acid lands in the east United States that are fit for nothing else on which blueberries could be raised profitably.

There are two methods of propagating the blueberry plant. The first, which is suited to upland soils, is to set the plants in trenches or separate holes in well-rotted peat about a foot deep and mulch the surface well with leaves or clean sand.

Give plenty of room for the roots. The soil should afford good drainage as the ideal condition of the peat about the roots is one of continued moisture during the growing season.

The second method of field culture is to set the plants in a peat bog after it has been drained, tured and deeply mulched with sand just as for cranberry culture, except that no provision need be made for rapid flooding of the bog for winter. The ground water of the bog might be kept a little lower than is usual with cranberries.

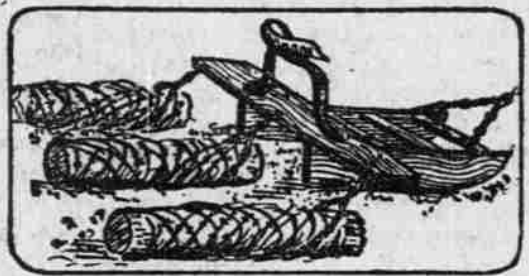
There is great difference between the genuine blueberry and its counterfeit—the huckleberry. The blueberry is plump, large and its seeds are so small as to be almost unnoticed. The huckleberry's seed is surrounded with a bony covering like a minute peat pit which crackles between the teeth.

The blueberries stand shipment well and if growers will take pains to insist that their product be not confused with huckleberries and sold at the same price they will be better off.

LOOSENS UP CRUSTED ROWS

Good Crop of Corn Secured by Use of Implement—Three Rows at Time Can Be Worked.

This is a tool that I rigged up to loosen the surface crust that had formed after listing corn. I tested out this implement last year and the year before on fields so crusted that the corn could not possibly have come through, writes C. F. Mower of Herington, Kan., in the Farmers' Mail and Breeze. After going over the crop with this tool I secured a good stand. It is made of an old style corn sled with a 2 by 6, about seven feet long, bolted across the back. Three logs are attached with chains and these heavily wrapped with barb wire. Taking three rows at a time one can go over a field



Loosens Surface Crust.

in a hurry at a season when time means money. I also found by putting heavy log chains in place of the logs I could pack the mellow earth after listing the corn.

WASTE TURNED INTO PROFIT

Skim Milk When Fed Alone of Little Value, But Given With Corn Increases Hog's Weight.

(By H. R. PLINT.)
Sweet milk, skim milk, sour skim milk and buttermilk are of practically equal value when fed in the proportion of two and one-half to three pounds of milk to one pound of shelled corn. A bushel of shell corn when fed with water produced an average of 11.9 pounds of pork, but when fed with 153 pounds of milk the average weight of pork produced in the same length of time was 17.7 pounds. While this is no indication of the value of milk when fed alone, it seems to show that when fed with shelled corn, 153 pounds of skim milk of little or no market value on the average farm, produced 5.8 pounds of pork worth about 40 cents at last year's prices. In many factories the secret of success has been found in the discovery and application of some method of turning former waste into a profitable by-product. The same principles can well be applied to the farm and farmers have not been slow in making this use of any extra milk.

To Remove Rust.

To remove rust from plows, disks, cultivator shovels and all other tools that need a bright surface, apply strong lye water about six hours before using. Take two tablespoonfuls of lye to a pint of water and apply to the surface with a swab. Best to have gloves to prevent lye getting on hands. The surface of the tool will turn white if left stand long enough. When ready, hitch on and go to work, and the dirt will only stick for a few rods. To prevent rust, smear all bright surfaces with raw linseed oil when done with them. It can be removed with lye water.

Feed for Poultry.

Hard-boiled eggs chopped fine with onion tops and lettuce leaves with black pepper and a slight trace of salt makes a good first feed for little poultry. This should be preceded by 12 hours with some good sharp grit. After the first week they can be given boiled rice, stale bread soaked in milk, cheese, sour milk, etc., always slightly seasoned with black pepper.

Individuality Counts.

Breeding is of importance in the dairy cow, but individuality is what really counts.

Gathered Smiles

SAME WITH HER.

Eleven o'clock was the hour, and the lady was both tired and bored. He was paying his addresses to her, but she was not very sweet to him, and yet she did not know how to dispose of him kindly and gently.

Half an hour later he was still rambling on, and then he turned to that ever-effervescent subject, his health.

"Yes, Miss Mollie," he said, "I know I'm not well. Seldom, indeed, do I feel myself. It's only my nerve that keeps me up at all."

She was a nice girl, but she couldn't resist the temptation. It was too, too much.

"Oh," she said, meekly, "that's funny! That's what's keeping me up, too!"

Then he departed, slowly, sadly, for ever and a day.

An Exception.

"George, dear, what's all this trouble between the Californians and the Japanese?"

"Why, the Californians don't want the Japanese in that state to become citizens and hold property."

"But, George, I noticed that all the students in the graduating class at a California theological school this year are Japanese. Why should the Californians permit this?"

"Oh, that's all right. Theological students are never expected to hold any property."

Pat and the Turkey.

Not long ago, in a western market town, I chanced to observe an Irishman with a live turkey under his arm. The turkey was squawking and gobbling in a distressed way, a racket which the Irishman did not at first pay any particular notice. Finally, however, the disturbance got on the Celt's nerves. Giving the bird a poke in the side he exclaimed:

"Be quiet, you! What's the matter wid ye, anyhow? Why should yez want to walk whin I'm willin' to carry ye?" —Harper's Magazine.

AN UNLUCKY WORD.



Wearily—Look at dat signpost, Clarence. Let's retrace our footsteps quick.

At the Circus.

"I should think giraffes would make a very exciting race, more so than horses."

"Why so?"

"Think of the point where any of the entries would be running neck and neck!"

Something to Break.

"This article says we should keep our servants interested and amused. I believe I'll get our cook a set of books."

"I think a set of new china would amuse her more."

Adopting the Suggestion.

"Shorty, you gourdhead, you're carrying three perfectly good umbrellas under your arm, and it's raining hard! Why don't you put up one of them?"

"Gosh, that isn't a bad idea, Squinchley! I believe I'll put up all three of 'em."

Whereupon Shorty executed a quick sidestep into a pawnshop that happened to be convenient.

Deciding Point.

"What do you think of the first work in this new house?"

"I think that depends entirely on the disposition of its prospective mistress."

His Other Name Is.

Griggs—I wonder if Roller is living within his income?

Briggs—Within it? Why, he's living so far beyond it that they may be said to be really living apart.

Doubtful Proposition.

"Don't you believe graft should meet with unflinching resistance?"

"Well, that depends on what chances there are for flinching."

Indiscretion.

"The Parvenus are furious at that society reporter for saying 'there wasn't a jarring note' in their last affair."

"I suppose the poor wretch didn't know they made their money in preserves."—Town Topics.

Modest Demand.

Knicker—Jones says he doesn't want anything but his autograph from the president.

Bocker—But he wants that on a commission.

TRIFLE SUSPICIOUS.



Mrs. Borderhouse—Why don't you have some soup, Mr. Skinnier? It will not hurt you.

Mr. Skinnier—I'm afraid of it, ma'am. I think it should be re-strained!

Not in the Nature of Things.

"Colonel," said the man with the hunted look in his eye, "you resided in the far west for many years, did you not?"

"I did."

"Was it a matter of common knowledge and observation out there that landslides happened oftener early in the month of May than at any other time in the year?"

"It was not, so far as I know."

"Then May 1 is not the natural and heaven ordained moving day! That is what I have always contended! Thank you, colonel!"

The Optimistic Author.

"How are you getting along with your new book, Scribbles?"

"Oh, first rate. I've some of the happiest sub-titles for the chapters imaginable."

"Have you thought up anything to put into the chapters?"

"No, but the titles are so felicitous that I am confident of being able to write a capital book."

Wise Jinx.

"I don't know what to make of Jinx."

"How's that?"

"I just met him and asked him what he thought of my new book, and he said to call him up some time and he would tell me over the phone. What do you think of that?"

"I think Jinx wishes to avoid a fight."

What He Was.

Miss Chatterbox—I hear you've been operating in the stock market. Were you a bull or a bear?

Mr. Smatterson—Neither. I was the goat.

Contingency.

"There is one cruel possibility about a maiden speech."

"What is that?"

"That it may also be a mis."

Old Story.

"He never believed in banks."

"I see. Did the rats make a nest of his money, or was it burned up in the parlor stove?"

Wrong Place.

"Try the new clerk in the tableware department."

"I am afraid that would not do for him. He makes too many breaks."

Literally.

"A dressmaker can soon tie an extravagant woman up."

"Yes, especially with the new hobble skirts."

USUAL THING.



Joax—My brother went fishing yesterday.

Hoax—How many did he bring back?

"About half a dozen."

"Perch?"

"No. Fish stories."

Realism.

Mrs. Hemmshaw—I am almost heart-broken because Ethel wants to become a moving picture actress! What shall I do?

Mrs. Shimmerpate—If she were my daughter, I'd just let her nicker.—Judge.

Less Effort.

"I don't believe in whipping the devil around the stump," said Tweedles. "I don't either," said Listby, yawning. "I'd rather sit on the stump and argue with him."